

THE BATES BEACH BEAT

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February 2023

Vol 2 No 02

JANUARY STORMS BATTER BATES AND OTHER NEARBY BEACHES

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Feb 17, Meetup Online 7 pm – 8:30 pm

MARCH

Mar 10, Meetup Dinner, Denny's, Ventura 6:45 pm

Mar 17, Online Meetup, 9 7:00 pm

APRIL

April 14, Meetup Dinner, Denny's, Ventura 6:45 pm

April 15, Potluck/Jacuzzi Party, Ventura, 2 – 8 PM

April 21, Online Meetup, 9 7:00 pm

Note: We are in our "off season." As soon as the weather gets better and the sand rebuilds at the shoreline, we will begin scheduling visits to Bates again.

During the large storm that hit the area between Christmas and New Year's, mud and other debris cascaded down from nearby hills and streets and made a mess of **Carpinteria** streets and beaches. Then a second storm hit a week later and dropped over four inches of rain onto that town in 10 hours.

As a result, the 101 Fwy between Ventura and Santa Barbara was closed for several days due to flooding and mudslides. The coastal hamlet of **La Conchita**, one mile from Bates, was evacuated for several days as a precaution.

KEYT-TV reported that many of the county's beaches had disappeared at high tide with their sand taken out to sea.

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Bates Beach on January 23, after the King Tides of the previous weekend. There is very little sand and much scattered debris. Photo by John Parsons



High "King" tides break against concrete wall at Bates, with water completely covering the sand.

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By Gary Mussell, Director



Bates Beach at the end of the sea wall after the first of two winter storms and King Tides.

January Storms Batter Bates

Continued from page 1

The photos on page one show Bates Beach totally disappeared during the storm as there should be 150 feet of sand in front of that sea wall.

Residues of lumber, tree branches, mud and other debris now litter the entire beach. Ventura beaches to the south were not spared either. Debris can be seen all along the sea wall near La Conchita south to Faria Beach, ten miles to the south.

According to the *Coastal View* newspaper, the large sand berm constructed at **Carpinteria State Beach** was breached over New Year's weekend, and sea water flowed into the city as far as the railroad tracks at 6th Street, Photos show the large park adjacent to the beach was totally underwater.

Many Bates members have contacted me to ask if they can volunteer to help with the cleanup, but realistically the amount of work to be done is beyond the capacity of civilian volunteers as it will require earthmovers, dump trucks, and other equipment that the county and state agencies are providing.

With the seasonal high tides continuing through mid-February, more and more debris is expected to keep washing up onto the shores as they steal whatever sand is left out to sea.

Right after the storms abated, some officials warned about high bacteria counts at some beaches although none singled out Bates or Carpinteria State Beach as being affected. However, *Coastal View* warned its readers that a few rattlesnakes were found among the beach debris and to be very careful.

County officials say it may take months to get back to normal as potholes and sinkholes need repairing, and that it could be July before the beach sand refills itself. All the while we have to watch out for continuing falling rocks and cliffs (see page 3's story about Black's Beach). FOBB will keep our members informed if a volunteer plan is planned but for now we have to let Mother Nature run her course.

Meanwhile, the citizens of Carpinteria are trying hard to return to normal. Next summer's parades, festivals, and business projects will go on as usual since the local economy requires tourist money to survive. FOBB will plan a couple of "\$2 bill Days" in late Spring to swarm into town and spend money to visibly support the local merchants and restaurants.

We ask that anyone visiting Bates or other nearby beaches, send us an email at friends@friedsofbatesbeach.org with your descriptions and photos so we can share them with others in the group.

Winter Storms Batter Other Nudist Parks And Beaches in California

Severe rains, winds, and snow clobbered the state of California for several weeks to start the new year. Several nudist parks and beaches were affected, some worse than others. Here is summary based upon our email responses and phone calls.

More Mesa Beach

We were told the county's other "clothing optional" beach at More Mesa, about 10 miles north of Bates, saw some rock and debris fall from the cliffs that line the beach. Sources tell us most of the sand has disappeared.



Aerial View of the Summerland Beach Oil Leak January 3, 2023. Photo by Harry Rabin for Heal the Ocean Newsletter

Summerland Beach

Summerland continues to be closed as the California Department of Fish & Wildlife and U.S. Coast Guard are responding to a massive oil sheen which began coating the ocean there about the same time as the first storm. The spill is 1.5 to 2 miles long and stretched to about 5 miles offshore.

The exact cause of the seepage is being studied by Harry Rabin and various state officials, but the storms and high waves have scoured the sand near the shoreline where oil wells were capped a few years ago but where residual oil remains buried in the sand nearby.

Goleta State Beach

As of January 15, Goleta Beach, 30 miles up the coast, remains closed as city workers use it as a dumping ground for city debris. On January 20, local news warned that "several rattlesnakes and poison oak branches" had been found among the driftwood. As in years past, this debris may wash out to sea and come in at beaches to the south on successive high tides with higher-than-normal bacterial counts. It was reported that 5,760 gallons of untreated sewage escaped a compromised sewage line to San Ysidro Creek, shutting down two downstream beaches in **Montecito**. It is highly recommended that visitors avoid all beaches for another few weeks until these counts diminish.

Pirates Cove Beach (San Luis Obispo)

The intersection of Hwy 101 and which leads to Avila Beach and Pirates Cove was blocked from flooding for several days, but it has since reopened. The pathway to the beach was severely damaged and the stairs will require resculpting. There is also a danger of rock slides from the cliff above the beach.

Blacks Beach (La Jolla)

The cliffs above the famous nude beach just north of San Diego are several hundred feet high, but an estimated 150,000 cubic yards collapsed on January 20 in three separate rock slides, essentially cutting the beach in half.

The collapse was caught by several cell phone cameras, the best of which is a 6-minute video posted on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKSWarHbUig>.

The slide was located a couple of hundred yards south of the Torrey Pines Glider Port and is estimated to be about 250 feet wide. There were no injuries on the nearly-empty beach below. Both the La Jolla Walking Trail and the Citizen Trail are now closed indefinitely, but access to the north (nude) side remains intact.

De Anza Springs Resort (Jacumba)

Claudia reports no flooding or fallen trees at the park, although the dry creek bed that runs through the park had a mini-flash flood that did not overflow its banks. As always this time of year, the 2-mile dirt/slurried road into the resort is always very rutty and muddy after a rainstorm so drive it carefully



Black's Beach After Slide

Laguna Del Sol (Wilton, Near Sacramento)

Owner Suzanne Schell reports her nudist resort south of Sacramento "got it pretty bad" from the first storm right after New Year's. "The Cosumnes river hit its second highest level on record, and we were stuck on our side of the lake for almost 24 hours. The grounds are full of tree branches, mud in some areas and other random debris."

"The kitchen of the restaurant had about 3' of water and the 8 lower-level hotel rooms and indoor pool area had about 18". The buildings drained out after about 10 hours, but the entrance road and road to the other side of the lake where our house is taking a bit longer. Thankfully, no one was hurt, and no permanent RVs or mobile homes were damaged."

A follow-up email following the January 14-16 storm revealed additional damage.

"The ground is now completely saturated and there is a lot of mud. We have limited access to the resort because of all the mud and we do not want people to get stuck, plus the weather has been awful and none of the main facilities have been open. Luckily, it's a slow time of year.

"A week ago, on Sunday [Jan 9], there were very high winds, and the power was out for 22 hours. Not sure how many trees we lost, but probably more than 3 dozen. Luckily, none fell directly on homes.



The above picture is Dillard Road, near the Hwy 99 exit to Laguna del Sol. Several submerged vehicles are seen.



Laguna Del Sol – water from Lake Archie rose high enough to enter the hotel swimming pool/Jacuzzi building.

Evacuations were ordered by the fire department and about half the people left and half stayed. The main concern was being able to get in and out, with so many flooded roads. Our ground staff have mostly been cutting up fallen tree limbs and trimming the damaged trees.

"There has been no more building flooding after Dec 31. The hotel rooms need new flooring, furniture, baseboards, some drywall replacement and lots of taping, texturing, and painting. That will take a little while, plus we didn't want to start anything with the risk of more flooding. The two levees on our property, both the county maintained one and the one that we personally put in, have significant damage that won't be repaired until late spring when the main rainy season is over.

"So, the Bare Necessities cruise comes at just the right time - we will definitely be ready for a vacation!"

Lupin Lodge (Los Gatos, Near San Jose)

Owner Lori Kay Stout reported the park had minimal flooding on the lower levels and the narrow entry road remained passable.

Located in the mountains between San Jose and Santa Cruz, the main Hwy 17 between the two cities was blocked due to flooding, falling rocks, and mudslides for a time but park access remained from the north.

Bonus: the park's water tanks are refilled!

County Parks & Rec Asked To Make Bates Legally Nude

Last month we reported that Robert Byl and Gary Mussell participated in a 3-hour online ZOOM meeting with about 80 other stakeholders to discuss revising and updating the Santa Barbara County Recreation and Parks Master Plan.

Afterwards, FOBB decided to write the principal planners a letter introducing our non-profit organization and to recommend a permanent solution for the clothing-optional section of Bates to replace the current verbal workaround. We proposed:

1. That the county nudity ordinance be amended to allow clothing-optional recreation to be officially allowed on our approved section of Bates Beach.
2. That the County Parks Commission be given jurisdiction to designate clothing-optional use for other physical locations or, by permit, special events. (As court decisions and public attitudes change over time this will allow flexibility for the Commission without having to revisit the ordinance a second time)

On January 6 we received a form letter that the Committee “will take our recommendations under consideration.”

We will keep you informed as the Committee continues its work.

Renewal Notices Go Out to Bates Dues-Paying Members

Beginning in January, we began sending out renewal notices to our FOBB members. These emails will be sent based upon the month when the person joined, so only the January and February members have received notification.


Friends of Bates Beach only asks for \$10/year which is the cost of one unhealthy lunch at McDonald’s.

As of January 26, half of these members who were notified have renewed already, and we are grateful for their prompt response.

Your freedom to plop your towels down on the sand of our favorite beach is not really “Free.” There are a lot of moving parts that go on behind the scenes to keep the pervs away, to keep local law enforcement happy with us, and to keep the support of the local city council and the town’s merchants. Without this work by your FOBB team, your permission to use the beach might suddenly go away.

We prefer that you pay your renewals via our website at www.friendsofbatesbeach.org however we will be happy to take cash or check, payable to Friends of Bates Beach.

Of course, larger donations are also gratefully accepted! We now have a “Donate” button on the Home page that people can use to contribute any amount they wish.

	Arroyo Del Sol
	Altadena, CA
	RSVP at (866) 268-8852
	arroyodelsol@c-ohomenetwork.com
	www.arroyodelsol.net
<i>Enjoy the pool & sunshine...naturally!</i>	
Clothing Optional	
Bed & Breakfast	

Glen Eden Sun Club (Corona)

According to some of the WNRL board members there was no damage at GE other than the wind blowing leaves and branches around some of the residents’ sites.

Sequoians (Castro Valley)

01/21/23 – The CBS-TV station in San Francisco reported that 22 straight days of rains has washed away the only private access road to this 80-acre park, trapping seven families inside.

Secluded at the end of Cull Canyon Rd in the hills east of San Francisco Bay, everyone is fine and getting in and out via a temporary foot path around the collapsed road, according to Robby Phillips, a 26-yr. resident of the club. “We just have to walk in and out instead of drive.” Phillips says they have plans to fix the road and that everyone living on the other side of it has propane, food, water and power. Sequoians is only open to non-members from April through October.

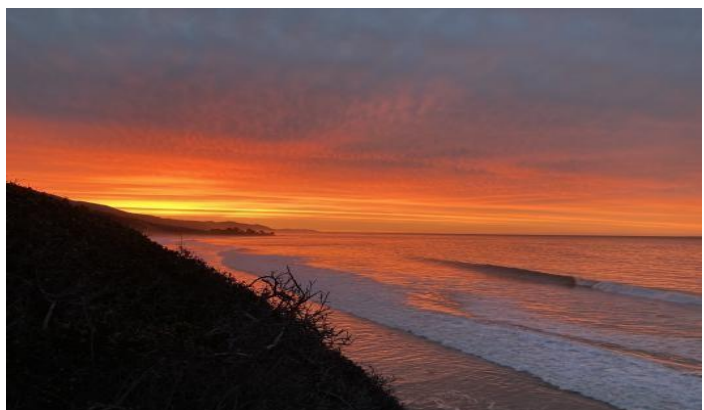


Above: the access road to the Sequoians club is washed away.

Reminder: The Sea Lion Sanctuary At Bates Beach Remains Closed

Reminder: The beach north of our area (near the pier) is now closed until June 1 so that the sea lion pups can be born and raised. Violators risk a hefty fine and arrest for trespassing.

The week of January 28, three weeks after our major storms abated, the seal count was way up as the animals returned to their traditional nursery area. Seal Watch volunteers counted 100 adults and 45 pups near the pier.



Sunrise at Bates December 31, taken from the paraglider area above the beach.

2023 FOBB Activity Calendar and Budget Are Approved

At its January meeting, the SCNA Board of Directors, our parent organization, approved our Bates Beach Calendar of Activities and Budget for 2023.

The \$3,000 budget includes replacement of the signs and banners, which are looking their age, that the club has used for the past six years at the Avocado Festival on a volunteer's parade truck. New \$2 bill business cards and printing for updating the Beach Ambassador training material is also included. The Bates Steering Committee expects to cover half of that amount from membership dues, donations, and merchandise sales, with the balance coming from SCNA and also AANR-West support for the Avocado Festival booth. The budget also covers the cost of our post office box, our website, newsletter and literature production, the monthly dinner, our online meetings, and the Meetup.com web subscription

Our first dinner meeting of the season in Ventura will be held Friday, March 10.

“We are squeezing every dollar we get,” said FOBB Director Gary Mussell. “We are spending the bare minimum to get maximum return.”

The 2023 calendar includes two mid-week organized beach picnics, again on Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting in May. There are also four weekend gatherings where all of the nudist clubs across Southern California are invited: June 17, July 15, August 20, and September 16. The third Saturday in September is also our annual California Beach Cleanup Day.

The Carpinteria Independence Day parade is on July 1 this year, and the annual Avocado Festival is scheduled from October 6-8.

FOBB is also planning two house/Jacuzzi parties away from the beach at the start and end of the beach season although dates and locations are not yet confirmed.

Additional details about our schedule will appear on the last page of each month's newsletter and the next two months' activities will be listed on page one of every issue.

Friends of Bates Beach Planning House/Jacuzzi Party in April

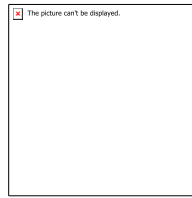
It is our tradition to start and end our beach season with a backyard house party each year while the sky is still foggy, and the ocean temperature is still too cold to enjoy on the sand.

Your Standing Committee has not yet confirmed the date and location, but it is our intention to host a party in Ventura sometime in mid-April

These parties are for our dues-paying members, their families, and their guests. Non-members may attend with permission of the Director or Steering Committee after completing a simple background check. A small entry fee is usually charged to cover party expenses.

We will be providing more details in our March issue of Bates Beach Beat, but we wanted to give everyone a head's up for now.

Carpinteria's City Manager Dave Durlflinger to Retire at Year's End



Carpinteria City Manager Dave Durlflinger has announced that he will be retiring by the end of the calendar year.

The Carpinteria City e-Newsletter of January 26 quoted Mayor Al Clark, saying "...Durlflinger's leadership for the past 22 years...has played an important role in helping Carpinteria remain a unique and vital small beach town."

FOBB has had a long and successful relationship with the city manager ever since we were organized back in 2007. His live-and-let-live attitude toward our clothing optional beach has been appreciated. We look forward to introducing ourselves to whoever the new city manager is so that our relationship with the City of Carpinteria may continue.

Carpinteria Planning Commissioner Callender Retires

Another important friend of the beach, John Callender, retired from the city's Planning Commission effective January 31. During the contentious public hearings last year about the path location for the proposed Rincon Trail, Callender was the lone vote among the five commissioners to support the paragliders and FOBB against the path that would have cut in half the cliffs overlooking Bates Beach. He also supported our argument that the proposed Trail 3's termination into the Rincon Park parking lot was a safety hazard for bicyclists using the path.

Mayor Al Clark will appoint his replacement in the next few weeks following nominations from the general public.

Bike Paths Closed for Debris Clearance

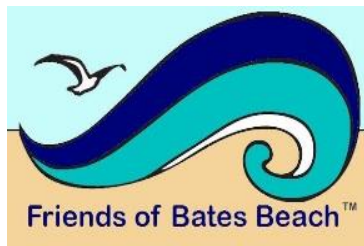
The bike path in and around Carpinteria Creek remains closed while city crews clear it and the creek of debris from the recent rains.

FOBB Plans to Meet with County and City Officials in February and March

As we always do, following local elections, several meetings are being planned by members of the FOBB Steering Committee with the administrative staffs of Congressman Carbajal, Supervisor Das Williams, newly elected State Assembly member Gregg Hart, State Senator Monique Limon, Mayor Al Clark, and Carpinteria council member Mónica Solórzano. These meetings, which we hope will take place in February and March, will inform these elected officials who we are so we can gauge their feelings about our beach efforts and to amend the county ordinance and make Bates an official clothing-optional beach.

The reason we meet with the administrative staff of elected officials is because they are easier to schedule, and they give us more time than the busy lawmakers.

FRIENDS OF BATES BEACH WANTS TO MEET YOU!



Each month, the Friends of Bates Beach hosts a monthly dinner and also an online ZOOM discussion group. These meetings are open to members, non-members, and first timers who are interested in social nudity. The focus of this dinner meeting is on naturist activities at Bates and other Southern California beaches; however, topics vary every month. Anyone with a sincere interest is welcome.

This meeting is a great first step for non-nudists who are curious and have questions about naturism, and it is a required orientation before non-members are invited (on a space-available basis) to attend one of our backyard pool parties.

ONLINE MEETINGS

Friends of Bates Beach hosts an online meeting each month for the people who cannot make the in-person meeting. Most participants live in the Santa Barbara to Los Angeles area, although sometimes we will get people from as far away as Canada and Florida!

Be aware that since everyone will be at their own home, these meetings are clothing-optional, and people often take advantage of that opportunity.

THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH



7 pm to 8:30 pm
VENTURA/SANTA BARBARA
ONLINE MEETUP

Just click the link and any browser will connect you! (You will be asked to link to the online application; click "ok") Cell phone users: it works like connecting to any other call. If you want to be seen, just click your camera "on."

Please join our Meetup from your computer, tablet or smartphone at:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/724415629>

You can also dial in using your phone at:
 [\(571\) 317-3122](tel:(571)317-3122), Access Code: [724-415-629](tel:724-415-629)

Upcoming Friday Schedule for 2023:

- February 17, 2023
- March 17, 2023
- April 21, 2023
- May 19, 2023
- June 16, 2023
- July 21, 2023
- August 18, 2023
- September 15, 2023
- October 20

IN-PERSON MEETINGS

This dinner is at a public restaurant in Ventura so obviously it is a clothed event.

Meals are "Dutch treat." Bring yourselves, some money for food, and your thoughts and enthusiasm.

You don't have to join the group to attend these dinners; they are open to everyone. Also, bring your curious friends and spouses!

SECOND FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH



6:45 PM – 8:30 PM
MEETUP DINNER

Denny's (west of Ventura College),
4095 Telegraph Rd, Ventura,
CA 93003

Our meeting room is to the right and rear from where you walk in. Buy your own dinner.

RSVPs for the dinner meetings is not necessary but appreciated so we have an advanced head count.

Leave Messages at: (805) 225-3304 or
email: friends@friendsofbatesbeach.org

There is no Friday dinner meeting from November through February.

- March 10, 2023
- April 14, 2023
- May 12, 2023
- June 9, 2023
- July 14, 2023
- August 11, 2023
- September 8, 2023
- October 13, 2023